

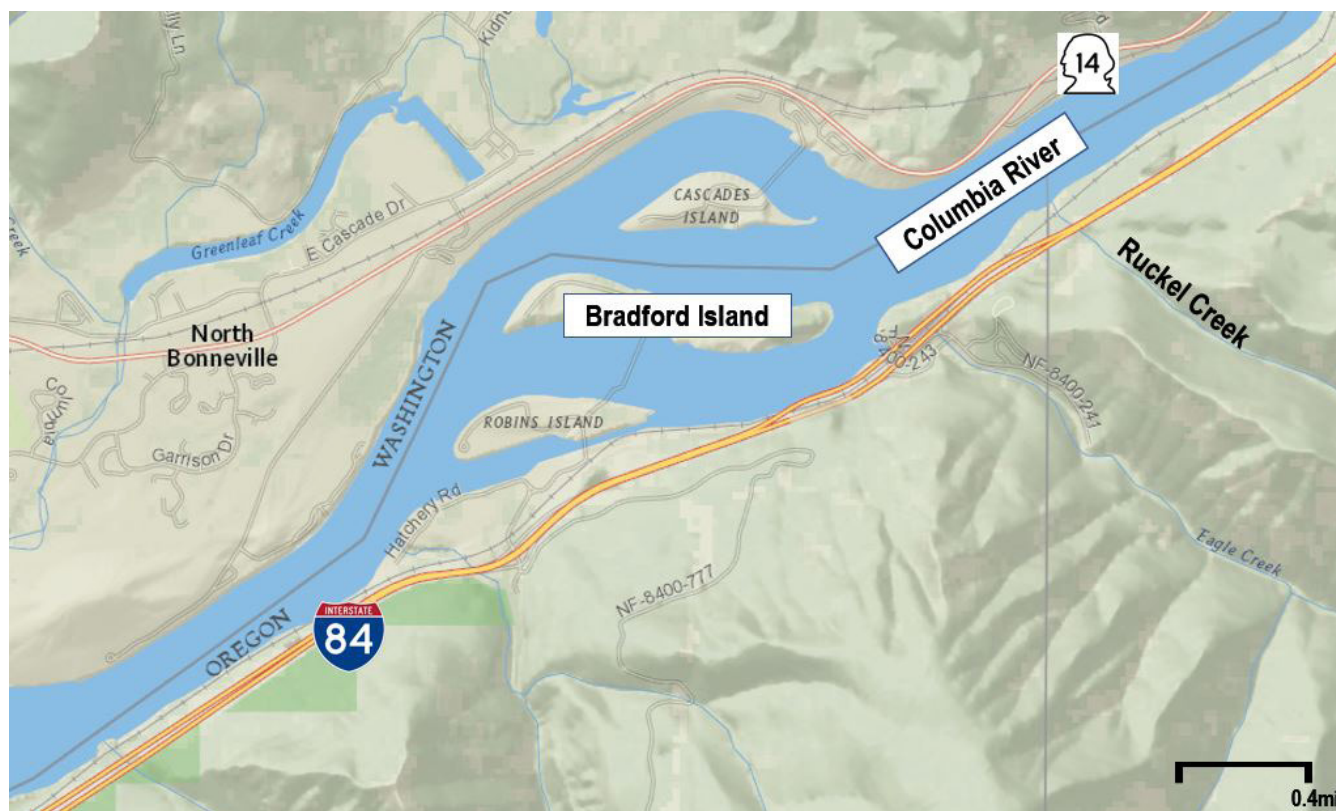
Proposed Listing of Bradford Island on the National Priorities List

September 2021

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to add Bradford Island as a Superfund Site on the National Priorities List, a list of sites throughout the U.S. that EPA prioritizes for cleanup due to known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Bradford Island is operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) and located within the Bonneville Dam complex on the Columbia River. EPA proposes listing Bradford Island on the NPL because historical discharges of wastes on Bradford Island and disposal of electrical equipment directly into the Columbia River present risks to human and ecological health. **EPA is accepting public comments on this proposed listing for 60 days**, and information on how to comment is provided in this fact sheet.

What is Bradford Island?

Bradford Island is located about three miles west of Cascade Locks, Oregon and 40 miles east of Portland, Oregon. Beginning with the Bonneville Dam's operation in 1938, the Corps used Bradford Island to support a variety of projects within the Bonneville Dam complex such as chemical storage, equipment storage, and waste disposal. Until 1982, the Corps disposed of hazardous waste in a landfill on the eastern side of Bradford Island. The Corps also historically operated a pistol range area upland of the river and disposed of light bulbs and electrical equipment in the uplands (upriver and lands along the river) and the river.



Map of Bradford Island- Showing the location of Bradford Island in the Columbia River.

Map Sources: National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, Increment P Corp.

How is Bradford Island contaminated?

Due to these past activities, the uplands portion of the island and the Columbia River are known to be contaminated. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals were discovered in sediment around Bradford Island. PCBs have also been detected in fish and shellfish near the island.

In 2013, the Oregon Health Authority jointly issued a fish consumption advisory with the Washington State Department of Health recommending that no one eat resident fish (fish that do not migrate to the ocean) from the Bonneville Dam complex at Bradford Island to Ruckel Creek, approximately 1 mile east or upstream.

Additionally, waste disposal and other practices affected soils, groundwater, and stormwater on portions of Bradford Island. Contamination in soils includes PCBs, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, and other contaminants. Exposure to these contaminants found at Bradford Island can cause adverse health effects to humans and harm the environment.

Why does EPA want to add Bradford Island to the National Priorities List?

Since 1998, the Corps conducted studies to determine the extent of the contamination and explore cleanup options. The Corps also removed electrical equipment and some contaminated sediment from the river.

The decision to propose the site to the NPL followed formal written requests from the Yakama Nation, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Washington State Department of Ecology in addition to other requests from community and environmental groups. In addition to the Yakama Nation, six other tribes who include Bradford Island in their traditional hunting and fishing grounds (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe) expressed concerns regarding contamination at the site and possible impacts to natural and cultural resources.

What happens if EPA decides to add Bradford Island to the National Priorities List?

Because Bradford Island is owned by the federal government and operated by the Corps, the Corps would still be the federal agency responsible for the cleanup process, including community involvement. However, listing Bradford Island on the NPL would bring EPA into a more formal role of overseeing the Corps' cleanup work. In addition, NPL listing would require a legally enforceable agreement between EPA and the Corps that would define work schedules and establish a formal dispute-resolution process where EPA is the final decision-maker.

Specific plans for additional cleanup do not yet exist. If the site is listed on the NPL, data collection will continue to ensure a complete understanding of the contamination and to evaluate cleanup options. A thorough analysis of cleanup options for both the upland and in-water portions of the area must be completed by the Corps and approved by EPA before proposing a remedy (or Proposed Plan) for public comment.

When do I submit comments on this proposed listing?

EPA invites you to comment on the proposed listing during the **60-day public comment period**. EPA will consider all comments submitted during this 60-day period and publish a response to the comments.

For **the most up-to-date information on the public comment period, including the end date**, please visit www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island or contact Laura Knudsen at knudsen.laura@epa.gov • 206-553-1838.

How do I submit a comment on this proposed listing?

E-mail to Region10@epa.gov and please include 'Bradford Island' in the title of your e-mail

Visit www.regulations.gov and use docket number EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0462 to submit a comment online

Mail (comments must be postmarked by the comment period end-date and addressed as follows):

COMMENTS – Bradford Island Proposed NPL Listing

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 6th Ave, Suite 155, MS 12-D12-1
Seattle, WA 98101

Why should I comment on this proposed listing?

EPA wants to hear from you about the proposed listing, including what you think about the listing, what you want EPA and the Corps to know about the site, and any concerns you have about the site or the listing process.

How may I get more information?

- Site information and documents supporting EPA's proposed NPL listing for Bradford Island are available at www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island and via www.regulations.gov. (Use docket number **EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0462**.)
- More information about the **Bonneville Dam Fish Advisory at Bradford Island** is available from the Oregon Health Authority at <https://go.usa.gov/xFEdy>.
- **Other questions?** Please contact Laura Knudsen, Community Involvement Coordinator, 206-553-1838, knudsen.laura@epa.gov

If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Laura Knudsen at 800-424-4372, ext. 1838.

 *TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Laura Knudsen's phone number.*